

**NCDPI and Home Base
School & Dist Spotlight 1028, Tara Patterson**

Patterson: Tara Patterson

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Patterson: Okay. I am Tara Patterson. I am actually an elementary-school principal with Jones County public schools, which is a very small, rural district in the eastern part of North Carolina. Actually with Jones County they started with Schoolnet the very first year when Home Base came out and immediately started working with creating benchmarks for teachers and training teachers on how to get the students in, do the benchmark assessments.

So they're—this is my first year with Jones County, so they (Jones County public school district) were kind of an old hat at using Schoolnet. But what I've done coming into the school at the school level, is really working with the teachers to delve into the data. Because even though they are given the benchmarks and the, you know, district was providing the information, they weren't necessarily utilizing the reporting and everything that's available in Schoolnet to really use the data to improve instruction. So that was—that's been my focus this year. And so at the school level with benchmark assessments we have found, for us, that the most beneficial reports available in Schoolnet have been the Standards Mastery and Item Analysis reports.

There are a lot of beneficial reports, and there we've really been focusing on those since the teachers are so new to that. Each time that we get our benchmark assessments we open up the standards mastery reports and then we go

through, we look for like whole class and larger-group needs, things that they need to re-teach; but we're also looking at small group and individual student needs and grouping the students accordingly to try to help them master those standards and skills they haven't mastered at that point.

We also, at the school level, this year—they had not really been using, prior to me being there, the Schoolnet assessments at the classroom level. They had used—they had been doing the district benchmarks for a couple of years. But now we are—they've been training creating classroom assessments, and so they're utilizing that with the students. We've also purchased smart clickers for the classroom, and we've been using the capabilities of Schoolnet for that as well, so they can do shorter formative assessments with students at the end of lessons, making it really quick to see what they need to do next.

But we've been—we've created data teams at our school. And all that's because of school—I mean, it's—Schoolnet's made it much, much easier for us because of that. I mean, you can always use any—we use all data at all grade levels, in class [ph], and everything to inform our instruction. But the data available in Schoolnet with the reports has made it really an easy way to delve into those specific standards and objectives that the kids need.

And so another thing we've been using in Schoolnet that they really love, and are starting to be trained on, is the grouping aspect, being able to take that data and use—and actually create the groups in Schoolnet so they can target those small groups of students and individual students with instructional materials available in Schoolnet. So we're really getting into all the other capabilities this

year. In the past they've only used the benchmarks. And so while we're still using that, we're getting into the other aspects this year that the teachers are interested in and really pulling in instructional material. Some of them, too, are starting to create their own instructional materials; they add those into their accounts and use those within their PLCs with students.

Because what we've been—you know, we trade students across classes or whatever we need to do to meet their needs there at the school level. They don't necessarily stay in the same classroom all day. We're moving them all around to differentiate instruction. But the Schoolnet grouping and everything has made that a lot more possible for us at the school level.

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